Voluntary communications, containing interest

News letters from the various counties of the

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" Editors of the UNION AND AMERICAN."

ing or important news, solicited from any quarter.

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dec6-3mlstp. REAL ESTATE AGENTS.

DISSOLUTION.

THE firm heretofore existing under the name firm and style of W. MATT BROWN & Co., to this day dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Brown retires from the business. Mr. Callender, in connection with Phineas Garrett, will co time the Real Estate business at the old stand W. Matt. Brown & Co., 41 Cherry street.

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Aitchen, stable, etc., and first r recistern. Priently \$9,000. House and premise, a good order 100 Feet on Broad street, West Nas. ville, with slegant new Brick House, containing 10 or 2:

rooms, kitchen, stable, twe eisterns, shrubbery, etc., etc., at \$15,000. Very desirable. If not sold within ten days, this large and choice place will be rented for the remainder of this and the whole

56 Feet on North Market street, corner of Lo. cust, on which is the well known Pleasant Smith house. Price \$12,500. 50 Feet on Spruce street, with large, elegant and new Brick Dwelling, containing 16 rooms, 2 bath rooms, kitchen, extra size, with gas, water,

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A choice little lot on North College, just below he Public Square, at a sacrifice.

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Nashville, Dec. II, 1865.

Nashville, Dec. III, 186

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laws. The Constitution of the United States Union and American.

RECONSTRUCTION. THE DEBATES.

Speech of Hon. H. J. Raymond. In the House of Representatives, on the 21st inst., Hon. Henry J. Raymond, of New York, replied to Mr. Stevens, as follows: MR. CHAIRMAN: I should be glad, if it Late with Gardner aco.

meet the sense of those members who are present, to make some remarks upon the general question now before the House, but I do not wish to trespass upon the disposi-State may be so tried and hung, but the tion of those who may be present in regard that there will be a better opportunity to say what little I have to say than is now offered; and if the House shall indicate no other wish I will proceed to say it. (Go on.) I need not say that I have been gratified to hear many things which have fallen from the lips of the gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. Finck,) who has just taken his seat. I have no party feeling, nor any other feeling, which would prevent me from rejoicing in the indications apparent on that side of the house of a purpose to concur with the loyal people of the country, and with the loyal administration of the Government and with nistration of the Government, and with the loyal majorities in both Houses of Con-WE ARE NOW OPENING A LARGE AND gress, in restoring peace and order to our common country. I cannot, perhaps, help wishing, Sir, that these indications of an interest in the preservation of our Governmade them parts of the Union? ment had come somewhat sooner. I cannot help feeling that such expressions cannot now be of as much service to the country as they might once have been. If we could have had from that side of the house such indications of an interest in the preservation of the Union; such heartfelt sympathy with the efforts of the Government for the preservation of that Union; such hearty denu iation of those who were seeking its de-

truction while the war was raging, I am sure we might have been spared some years of war, some millions of money, and rivers of blood and tears. But, sir, I am not disposed to fight over again battles now happily ended. I feel, and I am rejoiced to find that members on the other side of the House feel, that the great question now before us is to restore the Union to its old integrity, puridways has a constitution at any specific fied from everything that interfered with the full development of the spirit of liberty to the Government of the United States; but which it was made to enshrine. I trust that we shall have a general concurrence of the nembers of this House and of this Congress in such measures as may be deemed most fit and proper for the accomplishment of that The fact of its existence as an organized result. I am glad to assume and to believe that there is not a member of this House, munity of States-is quite another thing. nor a man in this country, who does not wish from the bottom of his heart to see the day Mr. Kelly: Let me interrupt the gentle speedily come when we shall have this nation, the great American Republic, again nited more harmonious in its action than it has ever been, and forever one and indivisi-

there be any State left? ble. We in this Congress are to devise the Constitution of any sort in a state, no law, means to restore its union and its harmony, to perfect its institutions, and to make it in nothing but chaos, then that State would no all its parts and in all its action, through all time to come, too strong, too wise and too free ever to invite or ever to permit the hand of rebellion to be raised against it. Now, Sir, in divising those ways and means to achave to do is to know the point from which | ernment of the United States, and that would | contest. we start, to understand the nature of the be an evil to be remedied by the Governmaterial with which we have to work, the ment of the United States. ondition of the Territory, and the States we have been trying to do for the last four with which we are concerned. I had supyears. The practical relations of the Govposed, at the outset of this session, that i ernment of the United States were all wrong was the purpose of this House to proceed to and were hostile to that Government. They that work without discussion, and to commit

t almost exclusively, if not entirely, to the they were States of the Union, but their defor the consideration of that subject. were destroyed. But Sir, I must say that I was glad when perceived the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens), himself the Chairman on the part of this House of the confesss, rather metaphysical distinctions, great Committee on Reconstruction, lead off n a discussion of this general subject, and thus invite all the rest of us who chose to follow him in the debate. In the few re- relations with this Government are changed, marks which he made in this body a few must be held responsible for whatever metadays since, he laid down, with the clearness | physical niceties may be necessarily involved and force which characterizes everything he says and does, his point of departure in have made my views on this point clear to ommencing this great work. I had hoped the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Kelthat the ground he would lay down would be | ly,) who has questioned me upon it, and I such that we could all of us stand upon it, am still more doubtful whether, even if they and co-operate with him in our common ob- are intelligible, he will concur with me as ject. I feel constrained to say Sir. and I do to their justice. But regard those States just t without the slightest disposition to create as truly within the jurisdiction of the Conor to exaggerate differences, that there were stitution, and, therefore, just as really and points in his exposition of the country with | truly States of the American Union now as which I cannot concur. I cannot, for myself, | they were before the war. Their practical start from precisely the point which he as- | relations to the Government of the United sumes. In his remarks on that occasion he assumed that the States lately in rebellion been endeavoring, through four years of war, were and are out of the Union. Throughout | to restore them and make them what they his speech-I will not trouble you with reading passages from it-I find him speaking of | field, has given us the means of doing this.

the States as "outside of the Union," as "dead States," and as "having forfeited all tion of those States to the Government, aid their rights and terminated their existence.' I find expressions still more definite and distinct. I find him stating that "they are and for four years have been out of the Union for all legal purposes," as "having been for four years a separate power and a separate His position, therefore, is that these States, having been rebellious, are now out of the the Constitution of the United States as so much territory to be dealt with precisely as position. If, as he asserts, we have been the will of the conqueror—to use his own waging war with an independent power, the will of the conqueror—to use his own language—may dictate. Now, sir, if that poition is correct, it prescribes for us one line of policy to be pursued very different from our recent conflict or demand the execution is to create new States out of this territory other foreign Power, we should never talk at the proper time, many years distant, re- of the treason of those who were opposed to taining them meantime in a territorial con- us in the field. If we were engaged in a dition, and subjecting them to precisely such a state of discipline and tutelage as Consoner the Emperor Napoleon, certainly we

one that will be proper if it is not cor- of Davis or anybody else as a traitor. Cerrect. His belief is that what we have to do tainly not. If we were at war with any soner the Emperor Napoleon, certainly we gress or the Government or the United could not talk of him as a traitor, or as States may see fit to prescribe. If I believe liable to execution. I think that by adoptin the premises which he assumes, possibly,
—though I do not think it probably—I ing any such assumption as that of the honmight agree with the conclusion he reaches. But, sir, I cannot believe that this is our traitors. I think, moreover, that we accept, condition. I cannot believe that these States virtually and practically, the doctrine of have ever been out of the Union, or that State sovereignty, the right of a State to they are now out of the Union. I cannot | withdraw from the Union and to break up the Union at its own will and pleasure. I believe that they ever have been, or are now. do not see how upon those premises we can n any sense, a separate power, if they were, how and when did they become so? escape that conclusion. If the Statess that hey were once States of this Union-that every one concedes-bound to the Union themselves by these ordinances of secession, and made members of the Union by the or by any of the acts with which they fol-Constitution of the United States. If they lowed those ordinances, a separate and indeever went out of the Union it was at some | pendent power, I do not see how we can deny the principles on which they professed specified time and by some specific act. I regret that the gentleman from Pennsylvania | to act, or refuse assent to their practical results. I have heard no clearer, no stronger Mr. Stevens) is not now in his sent. I should have been glad to ask him by what | statement of the doctrine of State sovereignt specific act and at what precise time any one | as paramount to the sovereignty of the nation, of these States took itself out of the Ameri- than would be involved in such a concession cession? I think we all agree that an ordi-

can Union-was it by the ordinance of se- Whether he intends it or not, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) actually nance of secession passed by any State of assents to the extreme doctrines of the adhis Union is simply a nullity, because it vocates of secession. neounters in this practical operation the Constitution of the United States, which is Mr. Niblack: I beg to inquire of the genfrom Pennsylvania, which he is combatting, he supreme law of the land. It could have no legal, actual force or validity. It could | would not also, if carried to its legitimate consequences, make those who resisted the Confederacy in the insurrectionary States ot operate to effect any actual change in the relation of the State adopting it to the National Government still less to accomplish the removal of that State from the sovereign those States? Mr. Raymond: I was just going to remark jurisdiction of the Constitution of the United that another of the consequences of this doc-States. Well, Sir, did the resolutions o these States, the declarations of their officials, trine, as it seems to me, would be our inability to talk of loyal men in the South. Loyal to what? Loyal to a foreign indethe speeches of members of their Legislatures, or the utterances of their press accompendent power, as the United States would plish the result? Certainly not. They could plish the result? Certainly not. They could not possibly work any change whatever in the relations of these States to the General tainly not. Simply disloyal to their own thair, which she wears in eight massive at a happy one. Government. All their ordinances and all government, and deserters, or whatever you braids, wound round and round her head, their resolutions were simply declarations of

ever took place, certainly could not date eign and independent State.

purpose unfulfilled.

This, then, is simply a question of fact,

the Constitution from the old Confederation | then proceeded,

ntention they proceeded to carry it into ef- simply suggest if, that the Confederacy was fect. How? By war—by sustaining their purpose by arms against the force which the United States brought to bear against it. Did they sustain it? Were their arms vicdependent power, according to the theory of torious? If they were, then their secession the gentleman from Penasylvania, would become the inheritors, the successors of its was an accomplished fact. If not, it was nothing more than an abortive attempt-a Sir, that is not simply a theory or a claim thrown out in debate here. It is one adand we all know what the fact is. They did | vanced on behalf of Great Britain as against not succeed-they failed, to maintain their ground by force of arms; in other words, they failed to secede. Indeed the main fea-Mr. Raymond was here interrupted by

in order to form a more perfect Union, made considerable number of the members of this its laws binding on the individual citizens House. I certainly do not think these Its Observance in New York-Ancient of the several States, whether living in one | States are to be dealt with by us as provinces State or another. Congress, as the legisla- - as simply so much territory held to us by tive branch of this Government, enacts a law no other ties than those of conquest, which shall be operative upon every individ-ual within its jurisdiction. It is binding upon each individual citizen, and if he rethink we are to deal with them as States having State governments still subject to the jurisdiction of the United States—still sists it by force, he is guilty of a crime and under the Constitutional control of the is punished accordingly, anything in the Constitution and laws of his State to the con-

other States of the American Union.

ed, a State cannot be tried, a State cannot be

hung for treason. The individuals in a

ridual citizens commit treason or not.

ment for a question?

Mr. Raymond : Certainly.

I do not think that the treason of Jeffer-State as an organization, as an organic mem-ber of the Union still exists, whether its indison Davis has anything to do with the inhuman treatment to our prisoners of war. I Mr. Kelly: Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. Raymond) yield to me a mohad granted to these States as a power wag-Mr. Raymond: Certainly,
Mr. Kelly: I desire to ask the gentleman
this question. By virtue of what does a
State exist? Is it by virtue of a Constituwar we were not therefore excluded from proceeding against them as traitors. The decision of the Supreme Court to which I have once referred, I understand it, aught to ion, and by virtue of its relations to the assert that we have the right to proceed Union? What in does a State of the Union against them as traitors, or rather that we exist? First by virtue of a Constitution; had the right to exercise against them both, and secondly, by virtue of its practical relathe power of sovereigns and of belligerents tions to the government of the United that the one did not exclude the other. Now States. And further, I would ask, whether, if according to the view I have presented if according to the view I have presented those States acting by conventions of the people have not overthrown the Constituwe are to deal with these States as States still within the Union, the next question tion which made them parts of the Union, that recurs is, how are we to deal with them' and thereby destroyed or suspended-phrase The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Fink) who it as you will—the practical relations which preceded me, took the ground that they had only to resume their places and their powers Mr. Raymond: I will say, in reply to in the National Government, that their repthe gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. resentatives have only to come into this hall Kelly), that it is not the practical relations and take their seats without question, and without conditions of any sort. I cannot of a State at any particular moment which make it a State or a part of the Union. concur, sir, in that view. I do not think What makes a State a part of the Union is the Constitution of the United States; and that these States have any such rights. the contrary, I think we have a full and perthe rebel States have not yet destroyed that. | feet right to require certain conditions in the Mr. Kelly: The question I proposed is, nature of guarantees for the future, and that whether a State does not exist by virtue of a right rests primarily and technically on the Constitution-its Constitution-which is a surrender we may and must require at their thing which may be modified or overthrown? hands. The rebellion has been defeated, and a defeat always implies a surrender, and Mr. Kelly: And whether these rebellious in a political sense a surrender implies more onstitutions or States have not been over- than a transfer of the arms used on the field of battle; it implies in the case of civil war Mr. Raymond: A State does not exist by a surrender of the principles and doctrines, of all the weapons and agencies by which irtue of any particular constitution. It

me. A State has certain political relations our generals as the agents and representathe fact of those relations being practically tives of the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States. But this is not operative and in actual force at any moment all they have still to surrender. does not constitute its relationship to the overnment or its membership of the United I will say that, in surrendering on the field of battle, they surrendered to the generals States. Its practical operation is one thing. who were in command of the armies as agents of the President of the United States, himself ommunity-one of the great national comthe agent and representative of the American people. If that explanation is satisfactory man one moment longer. I will ask him whether, if the Constitution be overthrown or destroyed and its practical relations cease, cifically and accurately than I did at first. Mr. Raymond: Why, Sir, if there be no Now there must be at the end of the war a similar surrender on the political field of controversy. That surrender is due as an onger exist as an organization. But that has act of justice from the defeated party to the not been the case. It never is the case in victorious party. It is due also, and we have great communities, for they always have a right to exact it as a guarantee for the fucomplish that great result, the first thing we ernment adapted to its relation to the Gov. tle? We do it that they may not renew the surrender of the principles on which they fought? It is that they may never again be That is what made the basis of controversy against the Government of the United States. Now what are the principles which should thus be surrendered? The principle of State denied our jurisdiction; they denied that overeignty is one of them. It was the corner stone of the rebellion, at once its animating spirit and its fundamental basis. Deepnial did not change the fact, there was never any time when their organizations as States ly ingrained as it was in the Southern heart, it must be surrendered. The ordinance which it was embodied must not only be re A dead State is a solecism, a contradiction pealed, the principle itself must be abandonncerned, be declared null and void; and but I did not raise them. Those who assert that declaration must be embodied in the that a State is destroyed whenever its constifundamental constitution. We have a right to insist upon this; and it must be apparent tution is changed, or whenever its practical that so far as that principle is concerned, this war was a permanent success. in the discussion. I do not know, Sir, that I

> An interesting coloquy occurred between Messrs. Raymond and Bingham, and between Mr. Jenckes and Mr. Raymond, a report of States have been disturbed, and we have which is omitted for room. Mr. Raymond said, in conclusion, I can not assent to the intimations thrown out by were before the war. The military, in the the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Ste vens) that the President concurred in the views he had expressed, or that he had the actual jurisdiction over them, which they handed the whole subject of pacifying the States lately in rebellion, and of restoring vainly attempted to throw off, is already restored. The conquest we have achieved, is a the States to the practical exercise of their conquest over the rebellion; not a conquest functions as members of the Union, to the hands of Congress. I can find no warrant ver the States whose authority the rebellion had for the time subverted. For these reason in his message for believing that he design thus to abandon duties which are evidently I think the views submitted by the gentlen his judgment devolved upon him as the man from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Stevens), Executive in the Government and as comupon this point, are unsound. Let me next cite some of the consequences which it seems mander-in-chief of the armies of the United to me must follow the acceptance of his States. On the contrary, I find him rehearsing in clear and explicit language the steps he has taken to restore the rightful energy of the General Government and the States. To we can talk of treason in connection with that end, he says, Provisional Governors have been appointed for the States, Conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States. At the same time, the Courts of the United States, as far as could be done, have been reopened so that the laws of the United States may be enforced through their agency. The blockade has been removed, and the custom houses re-established in ports of entry so that the revenues of the United States may be collected. The Post Office Department rable gentleman, we surrender the whole renews its ceaseless activity, and the General idea of treason and the punishment of Government is thereby enabled to communicate promptly with its officers and agents, The courts bring security to persons and property, the opening of the ports invites the restoring of industry and commerce, the post office renews the facilities of social intercourse and business. He has exercised his power of pardon. He has invited the States lately in rebellion to participate in the ratification of the constitutional amendment securing the perpetual prohibition of slavery. This done, he says, it will remain for the States whose powers have been so long in abevance to resume their places in the two branches of the National Legislature, and thereby complete the work of restoration. There it is for you fellow-citizens of the Senate, and you fellow-citizens of the House of Representatives, to judge each of you for yourselves, of the election returns and qualifications of your own members. All but this has been done in the exercise of duties as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of their armies. The admission of members of Congress and the restoration of the judicial branch of the civil authority of the Government are neces-

guilty of treason to the Confederacy or to sarily referred to the deliberations and acof the most beautiful of the Princesses of lost much of its sincerity. The peculiarly Europe, and from her description, would performed service was concluded may choose to call them, from that to forming a magnificent diadem of hair, such a purpose to secede. Their secession, if it which they would owe allegiance to a foras very few women could match from their own resources. She speaks all the different from the time when their intention to secode was first announced. After declaring that doctrine which I shall not dwell upon, but of the English language, which she speaks as perfectly as though it were her native ialect. She is an excellent musician, paints Austria. She possesses a stud of very val- rope. uable horses and a pack of splendid bounds, and she is said to take the warmest interest debts and assets, and we must pay them. in the racing and hunting of all Europe, and

markably good temper. ture which distinguishes the Union under | conversation on the subject. Mr. Raymond General Stonewall Jackson a benefit at the nors," The entire amount, it is believed, tory to the milroad company. Fremont's

ban's Church.

From the New York Herald.] Constitution and laws of missiane to the States trary notwithstanding. But the States themselves are not touched by the laws of the constitution o and jollity, fun and frolic, as ushering in the world's festival. In England, more especially, it was wont to be celebrated right roytrained and limited in our dealings with all

> blazing sparks caused a ruddy glow to flash on the faces of all, the festive board was merely allude to the matter. I might have spread, and all attacked the "brawn," the elaborated it when I said that because we boar's head, decked with bay and rosemary, and the roasted ox, with appetites sharpened ing war rights usually accorded to nations at by the frosty air. Then, "The wassail round, in good brown bowls. Garnished with ribbons blithely trolls," and, drinking of the joy-inspiring liquid, all became inspirited and the merry laugh and jocund jest resounded through the hall. Then came the merry maskers in.
> And carols rolled with blithesome din:
> If unmelodious was their song.
> It was a hearty note and strong.
> Who lists, may in their mumming see Traces of ancient mystery, MIDNIGHT SERVICES AND MASSES. All over the Continent of Europe, and more especially in Roman Catholic countries, the custom of ringing a merry peal upon the church bells at midnight and solzing mass prevails. On Christmas Eve the bells were rung, On Christmas Eve the mass was sunk; That only night in all the year Saw the stoled priest his chalice rear. In Italy, France and Germany this cas tom is never dispensed with, and the cere-

strangely enough, exists in one or two Cronan Abbey, Lincolnshire, is one of the monks, a grant of land was made it the war has been carried on. The military surrender was made on the field of battle to masses on Christmas eve. The abbey still Episcopal Church, and the grant, too, has ot been rescinded. Each Christmas eve at midnight the Cathedral choir on the battlements of the abbey chant a number of Angican hymns, by which means the grant of land, now very valuable, is retained. So soon as the village chimes proclaim the hour of midnight the carol singers commence heir peregrinations, and the gray eve of Christmas morning still sees them at their labors. This last custom, and one of the time honored usages of antiquity, prevail to this day all over England. From the first sleep of night one is awakened by the sound of sweet strains of music and simple melodies enly message promulgated so long since, of "Peace on earth, good will toward great communities, for they always have constitutions and forms of governments. It ture; why do we demand the surrender of their arms by the vanquished in every battival of Christendom has again returned. In merica these customs have fallen into die use, if, indeed, they ever existed. Having no ancient customs of her own, Columbia cares not to borrow those of other countrie and losing nothing by this determination her children enjoy their Christmas as heartthat were our hardworking citizens disturbed in their slumbers by the sound of Christmas carols, however sweet, the performers would

waked up, and the "waits" would assured!

have to establish the correctness of their co-

MIDNIGHT SERVICE AT ST. ALBAN'S

A service of an imposing and withal pecuiar character was solemnized at midnight at the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Alban's, Forty-seventh street and Lexington avenue. In England, for some time past, what is called Pusevism has been creeping into the Established Church as a hateful in-Mr. Bingham: The gentleman will allow me to make the inquiry whether, if that were novation, and only one step removed done to-day by South Carolina, and the people of that insurgent State restored to all their powers in this Union, they could not churches into which it has crept are not musual. Instance those at St. George's in blot it out to-morrow by every construction the East, where the greater portion of the that has ever been given to the operation of congregation would not permit the service to proceed for several weeks in consequence any State maintain; its relations to this Gov nment. What guarantee would that be?

of the Puseyism introduced. This has kept away from America for a long time, but now is in existence, the church in Forty-seventh street being probably the precursor of many others of a similar kind. A large congregation was present at the service referred to So soon as the chimes told midnight a not be funatical." ads, attired as acolytes, entered before the acolytish choristers were clasped as in prayer. There were six of them. After assisted them in the rendering of the hymn they chanted. Then came a small acolyte supporting a large wooden cross, entwined with holly. After him came the three officiating clergymen, which completed the novel procession. This line proceeded lish, the congregation the time standing and, after making a circuit of the building, returned to the altar, when the chorister filed into seats on either side, while the three officiating clergymen walked up to the altar and made each a low obeisance Remaining with his back to the congregation, the others doing the same, the priest, as he is termed in the Pusseyitish church, commenced the ordinary Episcopal service for the communion. On coming to the commandments he turned his face toward the congregation, but his companions still remained as before. The service was full choral. All the members of the congregation, instead of, as in most churches, sitting during prayer, knelt down facing the altar, lergyman, or priest, in the same po sition After the regular service the Lord's supper, or Eucharist, was administered to large number of communicants. All through the service it seemed as if the fervency the clergymen, as well as the congregation THE Empress of Austria is said to be one | was made subservient to form, by which it

certainly seem to be a very charming o'clock this morning, when the members woman. She is tall, slender, with a very the congregation congratulated each other white skin, a good deal of color, large, lim- on the occurrence of another Christmas, and It was appounced last year that Madame de THE lately published police report of New York for the year shows that the arrests of tongues of Europe, and is particularly fond males for various offences amounted to 4 754, while the arrests of females were only 20,119. This proportion of the sexes corresponds very closely with that of previous and draws extremely well, and is one of the exhibits, and with the exhibits made boldest and most skillful horsewomen of other large cities of this country and Eu-A FINE PRESENT TO GEN. GRANT .- A New York letter, of the 22d, says the Stock to know by heart the names of the heroes of the turi, biped and quadruped, of all the ternoon, in voting \$5,000, as a Christmas

about it is, that

AMERICAN. Office Union and American Block, corner Church

and Chorry streets, opposite the Post Office.) TERMS:

THE NASHVILLE DAILY UNION AND

Proportionate rates for shorter periods.

til quite recently, the art was scarcely prac-

ticed in this country. What is wonderful

Subscriptions invariably in advance. Of this wonderful business, so extensively nanipulated in New York, it is said that un-Usages on Christmas Eve-Impres-

"A single grain of gold may be beaten with the hammer so as to cover seventy-five Christmas Eve used to be a great day in square inches, which would leave it less than all Christendom; a day devoted to mirth the 350,000th part of an inch in thickness, or equiring more than a million sheets to make a pile three inches high. This would be about the 1,200 part of the thickness of comally, and gamesome minds made merry all mon printing paper, and is owing to the exthe day. In fact, the veritable festival itself treme tenacity of gold. A pound of gold may be drawn into a wire that would reach The bearing in of the huge "yule log" to the around the globe. A silver wire, coated Castle court inaugurated the day, and, as its with the thinnest wash of gold, may be drawn out to an indefinite extent without breaking the coating so much that a defect could be dis-covered, even with a microscope. The gold which is used for beating is very slightly aloyed with silver and copper, unless the leaf s to be exposed to the weather, when pure gold is used. It is first melted in an ingot, long and narrow, which, on being cooled, is passed through polished steel rollers, till it is reduced to a ribbon about one 800th of an inch in thickness. It then passes into the hands of the beater. The gold ribbon is cut into pieces of an inch square, and 140 of these are placed between as many sheets of the volumn, alternately, when the beater lays on with his heaviest hammer, beating the pile about an hour, first with one hand, then with another, shifting the hammer without any pause, and very deftly turning the book over, r from side to side, between the blows. By this time the pieces of gold will have ex-panded to the size of the vellum, when they are taken out, and each one is cut again into four. They are again placed within sheets of vellum, thus making a pile of 600 out of the original pieces, which are belabored for another hour or more with a hammer of less weight than the first. The faces of all the hammers are slightly convex, which causes onies are usually of the most imposing the gold to spread. When this benting is haracter. In Ireland, too, almost all the ompleted, the leaves of gold are again subonvents have a midnight mass on Christmas divided by four, making 2,400 in all, and eve, and the soft strains of the organ, and are put into three parcels of 800 each, the sweet voices of the spotless devotees harmogold alternating with the vellum, as before, nize together in a song of praise and thanks-giving to God. In England this custom and each parcel is subjected to another beating, more carefully administered, on account of the extreme thinness of the metal. The hammers decrease in weight as the process of these. Formerly, when in the possession | goes on. The beating lasts for five or six hours, at the close of which the edges of the for the purpose of paying for the chanting of leaves, which are quite uneven, are cut with a sharp reed, as the gold adheres to a metal exists, but has passed into the hands of the knife, and the leaf, ready for use, is placed in the books in which it is sold, each leaf of gold being about three inches square, and

seldom torn or eracked.

twenty-five making a book. They are very

Our Mexican Diplomacy Again rom the New York News.] Maximilian the First, by the grace of louis Napoleon, Emperor of Mexico, has issued a decree on the subject of certain Mexican labor. The negro is declared by that instrument free from the moment at which he sets his foot upon the soil of the Empire. t goes on, however, to lay down certain regwishing one a happy Christmas and recalling the havenly message promuleated so length the havenly message promuleated so length may hold the freedman to that first and last condition of freedom—industry. Be the merits of the peonage thus constituted what they may, the decree has given grave offense Washington, Mr. Corwin declared the form of labor thus established in Mexico a grinding slavery; and thus Bigelow, Mr. Seward accor patch with an opinion of Attorney General Speed-however that dignitary may be supposed to have had any concern in the legal receive other than a blessing as the sleeper than "peon slavery." Mr. Seward directed omen ere they would receive any large-ses. Mr. Bigelow to submit the question, together with the opinion of the Attorney General, to the consideration of M. Drouyn de L'Huys n order to bring it, with a view to remedy under the attention of the Government Empire of Mexico, but of a protectorate over that Empire by Louis Napoleon; and taken in connection with the quibble under which he legitimacy of Juarez's Presidency has om Roman Catholicism. Disturbances in been made an excuse for annulling the apcointment of General Logan, to the Mexican Republic, points plainly to the settling down of the Monroe doctrine into a philosophic acquiesence in the establishment of

SOUTHERN SENTIMENT.-Mr. De Bow says that "whatever may have been the theories of the past, the result of the great conflict which have shaken the land to its center, the handsome edifice being quite filled. The ted States is a fixed and permanent Governchurch was tastefully ornamented with ever- ment, and is capable of resisting every inreens and the channel decorated with ternal effort for its disruption." lowers. The altar cloth was of scarlet on North and South-there is but one feeling top, with a draping of white satin, on the in America, and it is that her destinies are front of which a representation of a cross | in her own keeping. A wise and liberal nawas prominent. On the altar itself there tional policy will restore to the United was in the centre a large gilt cross, and on States all that it has lost by war, and bring either side a vase of flowers. Four tall wax into harmony again its recently jarring ele-candles were burning, two at each side, while ments." The Hon. W. W. Boyce, of South at each extremity of the altar a candelabra, Carolina, says "the policy of elemency has full of burning candles, was placed. A done more in a few months to strengthen the number of evergreens in flower-pots were | Union cause at the South than centuries of placed at the sides of the chancel. Alto-gether the appearance, though tasteful in the Washington Chronicle uses this language: extreme, seemed strange as in a church where all desire for display is ignored and every where, the work of reconstruction may empty forms as little attended to as possible. proceed, necessarily radical, though it need soft strain of melody, from unseen singers, scat is moderate and patient: "For a time stole into the church, as if angels were rejoicing over the birth of a Savior. This terested spectator of a conflict which is to continued for a short time, when the doors decide her fate, and determine whether, in of the vestry opened and a number of young | the future, she is to be admitted to terms of equality with other sections of the country, altar. They were preceded by an individual and permitted to contribute her share to its dressed in a long robe of black serge, after glory and prosperity, or whether her former the manner of the old monks. He wore no associates in the Union will insist that she collar, and the robe was gathered round the waist by a black cord. The hands of the impoverished while held as a military province, and a cause of apprehension and a source of weakness in those days of foreign these came four surpliced gentlemen, who complications which overtake all nations in the progress of their history. While awaiting the result of this contest, let us, as well as we can under the difficulties which surround us, devote ourselves to our industrial pursuits and attempt to establish the basis of novel procession. This line proceeded future material prosperity." In all this we round the church chanting hymns in Eng- detect none of the relentless animosity to the General Government the radicals attribute to the South.

> BYRON AND THE COUNTESS GUICCIOLL.-Lamartine is engaged in writing a life of Lord Byron for Le Constitutionnel. The first volume was all made up from Moore's well known work, but at present an additional interest is given from the fact that Madame De Boissy, the wife of a peer of France, one of its oldest families, formerly the Countess Guiccioli, has placed in the hands of the author all of Byron's journals and letters, written during the period of her attachment to him. The rosiest hue is thrown over this portion of his life, and the husband of "Theresa" is, like all the hus bands who are described by lovely wives, an unmitigated brute, whom none of her family could endure, and her father and other relatives, are so much attached to Lord Byfon as to view Theresa's lieson with him as the most natural and charming thing possi-ble. Even a brother, who was absent when the attachment was formed, and who returned full of prejudice and dislike for him, was forced to yield to the charm which had seduced his sister from her husband's house. B. was about to publish her own memoirs, but it is now understood that she has confided this task to a man with a name in the literary world, that their publication might not take the air of self-justification. It may safely be presumed that it is for a consideration that Lamartine has undertaken to per-

GEN. FREMONT lately spent a couple of days at Jefferson City, Mo., where he was entertained by the Governor, and serenaded. The object of this visit is to set on foot negotiations for purchasing the South West Branch of the Pacific Railroad of that State. Fremont's interests are opposed to those of countries of Europe. In addition to all bresent, to Gen. Grant. The money is to be these attractions, she is said to have a remarkably good temper.

present, to Gen. Grant. The money is to be added to what is known as the Grant Testimonial Fund, which now reaches 67,000. York. The railroad company wish to re-When \$100,000 is subscribed, it will be duly tain the property—thus making a triangu-THE citizens of Mobile gave the widow of presented to the General, with "all the ho- lar fight, which will probably result in a vicis this, that whereas, the old Confederation is this, that whereas, the old Confederation did deal with the States directly, making requisitions upon them for supplies, and relying upon them for the execution of its like the considerable number of the like the number of the like the considerable number of the like the number of the number of the like the number of the number of the like the number of the number of the like the number of the n west corner of the State.